



Munguia Primary School pupils wash their hands from a tap stand provided by ADRA Uganda. Several water points have been put up in many communities across the country

# ADRA celebrates 30 years

By Vision Reporter

Just when Uganda embarked on a path of national rehabilitation and recovery soon after the National Resistance Army took charge of government, ADRA Uganda was registered as a national non-governmental organisation (NGO) on July 24, 1986.

The following year, it embarked on relief, recovery and development programmes throughout Uganda in partnership with United Nations agencies, international donors, the Government, the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) church, other NGOs and faith-based organisations.

## Background

ADRA Uganda is an SDA Church NGO. Although it is an autonomous national NGO, it is part of the international ADRA network, which was established in 1956 by the Seventh Day Adventist World Offices to respond to disaster relief needs, development needs in vulnerable communities and address the ever recurrent humanitarian needs at international and local levels.

According to Pastor Dr Daniel Matte, the board chairperson of ADRA Uganda and the Archbishop of the SDA Church Uganda Union Mission, the organisation receives inspiration and motivation from its international network and rich history

of humanitarian, development and relief work.

Over the years, he notes that ADRA Uganda's impact has been felt in several communities.

"Its mandate and mission is to work with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action," he says.

## Areas of Intervention

For the past 30 years, ADRA Uganda has implemented humanitarian, disaster relief and development interventions to various communities in the key areas, such as livelihoods and agriculture, disaster and relief interventions.

Other areas include water, sanitation and hygiene, community health, economic and financial empowerment. In addition, ADRA has engaged in hunger and nutrition interventions, programmes targeting children, gender equality, social justice and construction of decent homes for the poor.

In the area of education, it has constructed 141 schools with 1,128 classrooms, 420 school pit latrines, 250 teachers' houses and 30 school administrative blocks, among others. ADRA Uganda prides itself in serving all people equally, regardless of their sex, gender, or faith.

## The future of ADRA Uganda

According to the programme director,

## ADRA Uganda's strategic focus

- Improved secure and sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities for all vulnerable people and communities – especially the youth and women – with better and fairer access to quality inputs, markets or employment.
- Increased access to quality and equitable primary health care services for vulnerable people and communities.
- Increased access to quality and equitable formal and non-formal education for vulnerable children and youth
- Strengthened capacity of households and communities to be more resilient to natural and man-made disaster shocks and stresses.

as long as the need for humanitarian work and social development exists in Uganda, the services of ADRA Uganda will remain relevant and needed. What ADRA Uganda must build in its operations is capacity to adjust to the ever changing social political and economic dynamics, both at national and international levels.

He notes that the need to strengthen internal self-support is an area, which needs to be carefully studied, explored and systematically pursued now that the Government is opening up to allow NGOs to engage in income generation.

## Achievements

**Education**  
ADRA Uganda has constructed and/or rehabilitated and furnished over 740 classrooms; 240 teachers' houses; trained 2,723 teachers and school managers; sponsored pupils and students and trained thousands of adult literacy participants countrywide.

## Food security and livelihoods

ADRA Uganda has organised and empowered over 1,000 community-based organisations with literacy, knowledge, skills and start-up capital to engage in agriculture, business, value addition and savings and credit co-operatives. They have also been empowered to form networks to advance their interests through advocacy and other means.

## Health

Over 300 community health workers and counsellors have been trained and equipped to offer service. Health centres have been constructed, rehabilitated and medical equipment supplied to health units; HIV and AIDS and malaria control projects

have been implemented in various parts of central and eastern Uganda, benefiting thousands of people.

## Emergencies/disasters

ADRA Uganda has for the last 30 years been an active player in responding to emergencies and disasters throughout the country, ranging from landslides, floods, refugees and internally displaced people. In such situations, the organisation has always intervened with food and non-food items, WASH, protection and resettlement of affected communities, depending on the needs. This has been done in collaboration and partnership with the world-wide ADRA network and other players, such as UN agencies, the Government and other national and international donors.

## WASH and environment protection

WASH and environment protection have always been integral parts of ADRA Uganda's interventions and through these, shallow wells, boreholes and solar wells have been constructed for schools, communities and refugee settlements. Hygiene kits have been supplied to schools and communities and hygiene promotion campaigns continue to be done. Tree planting and other environment protection technologies and activities are a key feature of ADRA Uganda's projects and programmes.